

Obituaries

# Bernard Damon

Bernard Damon passed away September 19, 2020 at RiverBend Hospital due to complications from melanoma cancer. He was a very special father, grandfather and friend.

He was born in La Grande, OR on July 12, 1935 to O.W. and Josephine Damon. He and his older brother, Gilbert, attended a two-room school in Fruitdale, a suburb of La Grande. He often rode horseback to school and hitched his horse to a post.

He went to La Grande High School and met new friends. After graduation, he attended Eastern Oregon College to become a teacher. At the end of his sophomore year, he met his future wife, Jean Marie Graham, at a rodeo dance in Union, OR. She also attended EOC to become a teacher. She grew up on a ranch in Heppner, owned by her parents and grandparents.

Bernard went to National Guard Camp at Fort Ord for six months during the summer of 1957. On his return, he and Jean were married at All Saints Episcopal Church on December 29, 1957. They were happily married for 63 years.

His first teaching job was at the elementary school in Cove, OR. After Jean graduated from college, they moved to Eugene. He taught at Whitaker School and she taught at

Willagillespie.

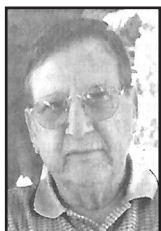
Their first child, John, was born at Sacred Heart Hospital in 1961. The family moved to Heppner to help Jean's folks on their ranch. John's brother Mark was born in Pendleton in 1962. Their sister, Ann, was born in Eugene in 1965, when Bernard returned to teaching and went on to get his master's degree at the U of O. He worked at Kennedy Junior High and Churchill High School as a counselor.

In 1976, the family traveled across the U.S. as they pulled a tent trailer to see the East Coast. They loved camping together.

After Bernard retired, he managed the ranch in Heppner. He enjoyed taking his four grandchildren, Eric, Tyler, Allison and Julia on long rides and teaching them to drive on the ranch. What a gift to his family.

He treasured his moments with friends and the weekly lunch bunch. He was also thankful for Ann's husband, Dan, John's wife Kristen and Eric's wife Jaimie.

A private family service will be held at Gillespie Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Lane Memorial Funeral Home in Eugene. Please sign the guest book at [www.registerguard.com/legacy](http://www.registerguard.com/legacy).



Bernard Damon

# Let us celebrate

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church

Celebrations are part and parcel of our life. The majority of us look forward to celebrations such as birthday parties, wedding parties, retirement parties, etc., as they are occasions of joy and gaiety that add vigor and vitality to everyone's life. If these celebrations are special and only for a select crowd, we feel thrilled to be summoned. We wouldn't dream of saying "no" to a VIP invitation, especially if the person mattered to us a lot. The Lord Jesus is inviting every one of us wholeheartedly to the Eucharistic celebration of the Last Supper. Faith is an invitation to celebrate God in our life and the Eucharist is the festive banquet. Have we accepted the invitation, will we join in the banquet, or do we have our stock excuses?

The prophet Isaiah (25: 6-10) uses the allegory of a banquet to describe the fullness of life that God wants to bestow, not just on Israel, but on all the peoples of the earth. "On this mountain the Lord will prepare a banquet for all peoples.... on this mountain he will wipe the tears from every cheek. This is our God in whom we hoped for salvation." The banquet that Lord hosts stands for the fullness of life to which God is calling us all. It is a call to celebrate our intimacy with God and a deeper and more authentic personal life. But it is also a call to community with others. The invitation challenges us to abandon our seclusion and our self-sufficiency and to be willing to share with others, to associate with others, and to collaborate with others. We are not invited to celebrate and satisfy our needs, but to enjoy and reach out to one another. During this time of pandemic, this particular passage is very apt for all of us.

The reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians (4: 12-14 & 19-20) stresses the fact that Christians' priority is salvation in Christ. The hope of salvation relativizes the value of every other good. This is the experience of Paul who knows "what it is to have little and to have plenty" and how to live in different circumstances: eating well and going hungry, having plenty or being in need. Paul asserts his firm hope in the Lord, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me," and asks the Philippians to do likewise. These words of St. Paul should strengthen every one of us to build up self-confidence and courage as we face the pandemic situation around us.

Today's Gospel, Matthew (22:1-14), compares two parables, the one of the guests at the wedding feast and that of the man not wearing the wedding robe, both parables dealing with being invited to the kingdom. The first parable is linked with the banquet mentioned in Isaiah, the kingdom to which all are invited. In the first century, a dual invitation was customary. Guests were invited

to enjoy a round of golf and hunting and fishing with friends and family. He especially found time to enjoy family, particularly his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His wife Rose suffered from a long and debilitating illness and Art was her dedicated caregiver and companion until her death.

Art was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Alfareta Kegler; son, Mark; grandson, Matthew, and brother, Ted.

He is survived by daughter, Terri and husband Jerry Reser; sons, Matt and Dean Kegler; eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

A private family gathering will be held.

The family suggests memorial contributions be sent to Funland Park Playground Rebuild Project through the City of Hermiston Parks and Recreation, to Animal Relief Fund or to the Boardman Senior Center.

Joshua 1:19 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

While Art maintained his American West Properties office in Boardman, recently in the Port of Morrow office building, his Hermiston office was home to six brokers at the time of his death.

Not only did Art take an active volunteer role in his professional and business organizations but he was an active and effective member of local affairs as well. Art served on the Morrow County Planning Commission and the Boardman City Planning Commission. He served a four-year term as Boardman's mayor and was serving on the Boardman City Council at the time of his passing.

As dedicated as he was to professional and community affairs, Art thoroughly

well in advance and again gathered when the feast was about to begin. The banquet is prepared, everything is ready, and the king summons the guests. Shockingly, some simply ignore the invitation, others head out of town, and the rest beat up and kill the king's messengers. They all have their excuses and justifications.

Now days, we hear a lot about these types of excuses with regards to God and church matters. It was in a story by Flor McCarthy that we published in "New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies." Once there was a tailor who mended the clothes of everybody in town, yet he himself went about with his coat in tatters. And to the embarrassment of everybody, he appeared like that in Church on Sundays. One Sunday a friend said to him, "It's a disgrace that you, a respectable tailor, should go around in a tattered coat. Shame on you for coming here dressed like that." "But what can I do? I'm a poor man and I have to work all week to make a living." the tailor replied. "Where am I going to find the time to mend my own clothes?" "Look," said the friend. "Here's \$20. Think of me as one of your customers. I'm paying you to mend your own coat." "I'll agree to that," cried the tailor as he took the money. However, when he came to Church the following Sunday the friend noticed that once again, he was dressed in his old tattered coat. Extremely annoyed, the friend said to him, "Now there is no excuse for this kind of behavior. Didn't I give you \$20 last Sunday to mend your coat? Yet I can see that you never even touched it." "What can I do?" said the tailor apologetically. "When I went home last Sunday and examined my coat, I realized that I'd be losing money on the job if I did it for \$20." A man like that will always find excuses. Now days, we have excuses for not doing what we know we are supposed to do. And we have excuses for doing what we know we shouldn't do. Some of these excuses are reasonable, some shabby.

"Suppose your son is returning home after being out of the country for five years. He's scheduled to arrive sometime next week, but he's not sure whether it will be on Thursday or Friday. You call two of his closest friends and invite them to a welcome-home dinner. You explain the situation and ask them to hold both dates open. They agree enthusiastically. When news comes that your son will arrive on Friday, you call his friends back and say, 'The dinner will be on Friday night.' They shock you by saying, 'Sorry! We've made other plans for that night.' -It was this kind of situation that Jesus had in mind in today's parable. To say 'yes' to the advance invitation and 'no' at a later date was an insult." - Mark Link

The refusing guests are like the original invitees to God's kingdom, God's chosen people, the Jewish people and in particular their leaders who not only refused to accept the invitation but put to death the son of God himself. In the parable, after sending his troops to deal with the murderers, far from grumbling, the king orders his servants to go to the highways and byways and invite everyone they see, both the good and the bad, to the wedding feast. The "good and the bad" are invited to make it clear that people are not invited because of their merits but rather because of the generous goodness of God.

Matthew continues with a second parable with another theme. Among those who come into the banquet, the king notices a man without the wedding garment. He is questioned and thrown out of the banquet. Why was the king so harsh on the man who was invited at the last moment? On the literal level, it seems absurd that he would have a fine garment after being picked up from the street. Evidently, there is a deeper point being made: accepting the invitation to the kingdom requires a certain practical behavior, to which the image of a robe is referring. Since clothing can be a symbol of new identification with Christ, the wedding garment evokes the good deeds or quality of life that must be shown by one who participates in the banquet of life. Those who accept God's invitation can't just walk in and continue to live as they want; they must change, they must be seen wearing the wedding garment, living the Christian life, graced by God and overflowing in deeds of justice and love.

This invitation from Jesus is one that we may need to hear far more often than we realize. It's a gentle invitation to let our Lord lighten our daily burden, relieve our worries, our stress, our concerns and all that weighs us down. It's an invitation of love and mercy and is one we should always accept. Jesus instructs us, "Make your home in Me as I make My home in you." Although we are unable to celebrate as we would wish due to the Covid-19 pandemic, let us continue to celebrate God in our lives, in the company of and reaching out to one another where possible.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

# Arthur Thomas "Art" Kegler

Art Kegler, grocer, Realtor and public servant, passed away September 4, 2020 at the age of 88. He was born Arthur Thomas Kegler on July 15, 1932 to Archibald and Alfareta (Schuster) Kegler in Edgerton, Wisconsin. Art moved with his family to Vancouver, WA as a young boy and graduated from Vancouver High School at the age of 16. He then attended the University of Oregon, earning a bachelor's degree in business and general studies.

While in college, he was hired to work at Montgomery Ward's by Rose Cerkoney, whom he fell in love with and married on September 20, 1952.

Over the next 30 years Art engaged in several entrepreneurial pursuits from Eugene, Roseburg and Tigard, OR to California. Along the way four children joined Art and Rose's family; Terri, Matt, Dean and Mark.

In 1983 the entire family moved to Boardman where Art found his home and place in the sun. Art

bought the grocery store, made a change of hours and the redesigned Kegler's Sentry Market was only one of the top five stores in the state to scan products at the check-out counter. The store is now a Select Market.

When the store first opened, the whole family was involved. Rose was the upstairs bookkeeper, Matt, Dean and Mark kept the shelves stocked and the cash registers staffed and Art not only managed the operation but became active in the Sentry Market's wholesale business. Daughter Terri did her part by marrying Jerry Reser of Reser's Fine Foods, a wholesaler of specialty food items.

Not to let grass grow under his feet, Art learned the real estate business, earned his broker's license and opened his office as American West Properties in 1994, originally in the Sentry Market building. Art later expanded his Amer-



Arthur Thomas 'Art' Kegler

ican West Properties to a location in Hermiston. He served as president of the Oregon Association of Realtors and has served many years on their Government Affairs Committee. In 2003 he was appointed by the Governor to the Oregon Real Estate Board. Art's son Dean is now one of 15 members of the executive board of the Oregon Association of Realtors, a position Art has held.

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*Retain*  
**Glen DIEHL**  
**Justice of the Peace**

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\*Over three decades of Criminal Justice Experience\*

*"Having known and worked with Glen for almost 33 years I have been able to see his dedication to the public and how he deals with people. Glen has vast knowledge and experience in many facets of the criminal justice system. I believe he is the most experienced and capable candidate for Justice of the Peace." - Terry Harper*

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* Chief Merle Cowett, Retired	* Boardman Police Officers	* Chief Mike Cahill, Retired
* Under Sheriff Steve Myren, Ret.	* William Kuhn, Attorney at Law	* Chief Greg Sayles, Ret.
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